

be light grey with a black hook; the tarsi and feet are described as pale pink, and the irides as pale brown.

†BULWERIA BULWERI.

Bulwer's Petrel has been supposed to be peculiar to the Atlantic, but it has recently occurred in the Pacific Ocean on Kauai, one of the Sandwich Islands (Stejneger, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1890, p. 380).

Mr. Holst found it very common on Sulphur Island, and sends three examples, in each of which the pale bar across the wing formed by the grey margins of the greater wing-coverts is very conspicuous, which bar is said to be absent in *Bulweria macgillivrayi* from the Fiji Islands. These Petrels flew about at night like Bats in the twilight in great numbers, being extremely bold, sometimes touching the gun with the tips of their wings, but the rapidity of their flight made it very difficult to shoot them. Mr. Holst succeeded in dropping one of them, and afterwards secured several more in the daytime, when they were found hidden away in pairs among the bushes and rocks all over the island, but he was unable to find any eggs.

†SULA LEUCOGASTRA.

The Common Booby was very abundant, and great numbers of their eggs were taken early in June. They vary in size from 2·7 inches by 1·7 to 2·4 inches by 1·6.

†PHAETON RUBRICAUDA.

The Red-tailed Tropic Bird was only seen on San Alessandro, where it was very abundant, but kept well above the range of gunshot. No skins were brought from this island, but Boobies, Albatroses, and many small birds were seen.

XX.—On a supposed new Species of Petrel of the Genus *Cestrelata*, from the Kermadec Islands. By OSBERT SALVIN, M.A., F.R.S., &c.

†CESTRELATA CERVICALIS, sp. n.

Supra capite summo nigro plumis omnibus ad basin albis,
cervice postica alba plumis stricte pallido griseo margi-

natis, dorso toto et tectricibus caudæ superioribus fusco-nigricantibus plumis quoque griseo limbatis, uropygio fere pure nigricante; alis nigris, tectricibus majoribus vix grisescentibus et strictissime albo marginatis; cauda obscure fusca ad basin reticum mediarum alba, rectricibus lateralibus in pogonio interno fere ad apicem cum rachidibus pure albis; fronte, loris et corpore toto subtus cum tectricibus caudæ inferioribus pure albis, genis et area ante oculos nigro punctatis; remigibus nigris, infra ad basin tantum albis, margine alarum externo subtus nigricante albo intermixto, tectricibus majoribus et intermediis pure albis, secundariis in pogonio interno fere ad apicem pure albis; rostro nigro, pedibus carneis, digito externo extrorsum et omnibus cum palmis pro dimidio distali nigris. Long. tota 19·0 poll. Angl., alæ 11·5, caudæ 5·3, rostri a rictu 1·7, tarsi 1·5, dig. med. cum ungue 1·9.

Hab. Ins. Kermadec.

Mus. Brit.

Obs. *Æ. phæopygia*, mihi, proxima, sed rostro multo robustiore, cervice postica alba, et plumis dorsi griseo limbatis certe distinguenda.

The specimen from which the above description is taken was recently sent to the British Museum by Captain Carpenter of the whaling barque 'Costa Rica Packet,' with the information that it was obtained "about a year and a half ago" on the Kermadec Islands. The bird is evidently allied to the section of *Æstrelata* of which *Æ. hæsitata* is the best known example. From this species it is readily distinguished by its larger bill and its dark uropygium, but it has the nearly pure white hind neck of *Æ. hæsitata*; in this it differs from *Æ. phæopygia*, but agrees with that bird in having a dark rump. The size of the bill separates it from both these birds.

A character by which these three birds may be distinguished is the colour of the primaries beneath, which are black over the whole of the exposed portion of the inner webs, and only become white under the larger coverts.

Other species of *Æstrelata* allied to *Æ. cervicalis* are *Æ. magentæ* and *Æ. externa*. But in the former the forehead is

grey to the base of the bill, and the latter has a longer thinner bill, and the exposed portion of the inner webs of the primaries beneath, near the larger coverts, is white.

Æ. phæopygia was first described from specimens obtained in the Galapagos Archipelago (see Trans. Zool. Soc. ix. p. 507, pl. lxxxviii. fig. 1). It has since been found in the Sandwich Islands, and has been again described by Mr. Ridgway as *Æ. sandwichensis*.

The British Museum has recently received a specimen from the Island of Kauai, which agrees accurately with the types of *Æ. phæopygia*.

The only species of *Æstrelata* hitherto known from the Kermadec Islands is *Æ. neglecta*, Schl. (Mus. Pays-Bas, vi. Procell. p. 10). This is a smaller bird than that now described, with much more white on the primaries beneath, besides differing in other characters.

XXI.—*On the Birds of Madagascar, and their Connection with Native Folk-lore, Proverbs, and Superstitions.* By the Rev. JAMES SIBREE, Jr., F.R.G.S.*—Part I.

THE Natural History of Madagascar is a study of great interest, not only to the zoologist, but also to the geologist and physical geographer; for although the animal life of the great African island is by no means so varied and so striking as that of some of the other large islands of the world, its peculiarities and its omissions are extremely significant; and the many peculiar and isolated animals it contains throw much light upon the physical condition of the island and its surrounding groups in earlier geological periods. This statement is true of the Mammalia, the Reptiles, and the Insects of Madagascar, and it is no less true of its Birds.

My object in the present and subsequent articles is two-

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